

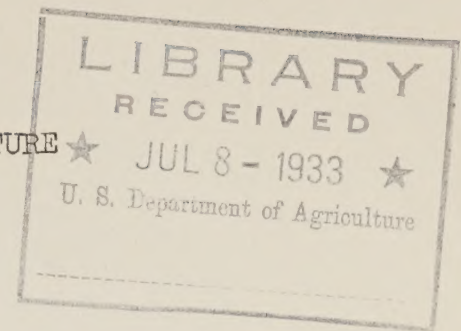
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Entomology,  
Washington, D. C.



TOMATO FRUITWORM

The tomato fruit worm is a common pest of tomatoes, feeding first on the terminal shoots and later on the fruits. It is known as the corn ear worm when it attacks corn. Other worms, including some of the climbing cutworms cause similar injury.

There is no entirely satisfactory method for the control of the tomato fruitworm. Dusting with an arsenical such as calcium arsenate will prevent damage to a considerable extent. Experiments have shown that treated plots yield about 50 per cent more undamaged tomatoes than untreated areas. The calcium arsenate should be mixed with hydrated lime at the rate of equal parts of the calcium arsenate to equal parts of hydrated lime.

The treatments should begin early in the season and the dust applied directly to the terminal shoots and also to the blossom stalks as it is on these parts of the plants that the newly-hatched worms feed. The object of these treatments is to kill the worms before they migrate to the fruits to feed. The treatments should be made at weekly or ten-day intervals until the first fruits are about half-grown when treatment will have to cease because of the danger of poisonous residues occurring on the fruit. If all fruit is carefully washed or wiped before marketing or consuming, it is likely that treatment may be safely continued until a somewhat later date.

Much injury can be prevented in small plantings if infested fruits are picked and destroyed. The worms are restless, shifting from one fruit to another, so that one worm may spoil many fruits.

TRUCK CROP AND GARDEN  
INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

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